

Implementing California Flood Legislation into Local Land Use Planning: A Handbook For Local Communities

FloodSAFE VISION

A sustainable integrated flood management and emergency response system throughout California that improves public safety, protects and enhances environmental and cultural resources, and supports economic growth by reducing the probability of destructive floods, promoting beneficial floodplain processes, and lowering the damages caused by flooding.



One of the most effective ways to reduce vulnerability to potential flood damage is through careful land use planning that is fully informed by applicable flood information and flood management practices. Federal, State, and local agencies may construct and operate flood protection facilities to reduce flood risks, but some amount of flood risk will remain for those residing in floodplains. Because some risk remains, increasing flood risk awareness can help ensure Californians recognize the potential threat of flooding and are better prepared to implement flood management activities.

In 2007, as part of a package of six bills addressing flood risk management and flood protection in California, Assembly Bill 162 (AB 162) was passed. This bill specifically requires additional consideration of flood risk in local land use planning throughout California and named the Department of Water Resources (DWR) as a source for floodplain information and technical data that local governments will need to comply with AB 162.

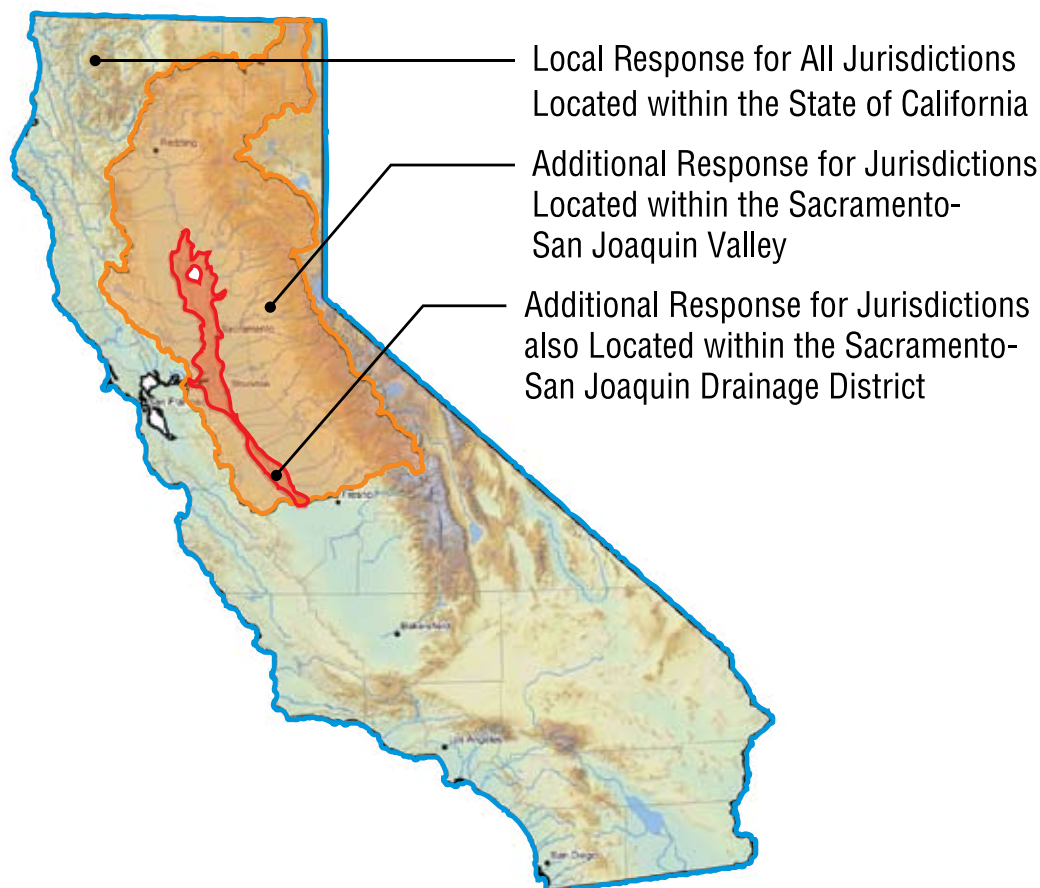


DWR recognized the interest and demand for guidance by local governments to comply with the new legislation and in response has prepared a guidance document that describes the new legislative requirements that affect city and county local planning responsibilities – e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances, development agreements, tentative maps, and other actions. The document titled *Implementing California Flood Legislation into Local Land Use Planning: A Handbook for Local Communities* (Handbook) is intended to assist cities and counties to comply with the new legislation by:

- Identifying the new code requirements
- Noting additional factors and actions that jurisdictions should consider
- Highlighting the schedule for compliance
- Directing where jurisdictions can obtain more information and assistance

The Handbook is an important element in the multi-faceted FloodSAFE California initiative and has been closely coordinated with other FloodSAFE programs – e.g., the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan, Central Valley Floodplain Evaluation and Delineation Program, and the Statewide Flood Management Planning project, as well as other State agencies, including the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

The applicability of the new flood risk management legislation varies depending on where a city or county is located within California. Some provisions apply to all jurisdictions within the State, while others are additive and apply only to communities within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley (as defined in government Code Section 65007[g]), or the Sacramento-San Joaquin Drainage District. Using the Handbook will help local communities navigate through the geographic focus of the new legislation and more effectively consult with DWR and local flood management agencies. For specified areas, a crosswalk and checklist are included in the Handbook to further assist local communities in meeting timelines for the new modifications.



Because local conditions and solutions vary, the Handbook does not attempt to define specific policy or other solutions for compliance. Rather, it presents guidance and identifies resources to assist local jurisdictions in defining applicable flood information and in working with the appropriate agencies to develop locally relevant responses.

Responsible land use planning and flood risk management practices support the State's ongoing emphasis on sustainability by integrating natural systems with community development. Local land use decisions that integrate flood risk management considerations contribute to a more sustainable California through reducing the economic, environmental, and social effects that can result from flooding.

For additional information, please visit [www. water.ca.gov/LocalFloodRiskPlanning/](http://www.water.ca.gov/LocalFloodRiskPlanning/) or email LocalFloodRiskHandbook@water.ca.gov